



NOAA's Central Region Collaboration Team

Addressing Regional Challenges and Fostering Collaboration

WHAT IS NOAA REGIONAL COLLABORATION?

Established in 2007, NOAA Regional Collaboration is a network of NOAA employees and partners representing the agency's diverse capabilities across the country. The eight NOAA Regional Collaboration Teams include a varying number of team members, are led by senior level Regional Team Leads, a HQ liaison and an Advisory Group representing head-quarters level leadership.

WHY COLLABORATE?

NOAA confronts complex challenges that are place-based and require interdisciplinary approaches for regionally tailored solutions. To support these endeavors, and work to help NOAA meet increasing demands for services, NOAA's Regional Collaboration Teams are positioned to facilitate collaboration at the regional level, as well as tap into resources and capabilities.

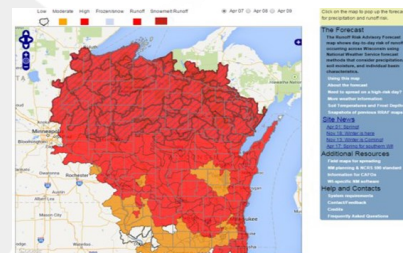
From drought planning, building resilient communities, educating on impacts from agricultural run-off, and working with core partners to prepare and respond to severe weather events—NOAA's expertise and role as a trusted source of environmental information is vital. Regionally tailored products and services designed to address unique needs and apply scientific resources helps ensure decisions are made with the best information available.

WHAT DOES THE CENTRAL REGION TEAM DO?

NOAA's Central Region Collaboration Team (CRT) identifies, communicates, and responds to regional needs; catalyzes collaboration; and connects people and capabilities to advance NOAA's mission.

Expands Knowledge by Capacity Building

The CRT advances understanding of Runoff Risk Decision Support by leveraging skills, knowledge, and connections of NOAA experts and partners. Results include collaborative projects, a 2-page summary, a full-length video and short trailer to explain hypoxia, harmful algal blooms, agricultural practices and decision support to help reduce impacts of runoff and improve water quality.



Enhances Regional Climate Services

The CRT develops workshops tailored to NWS Local Forecast Offices to foster collaboration, showcase available products and services in the region, introduce key partners, and provide hands-on experience with climate data and information tools. The workshops advance NOAA's efforts to build a Weather Ready Nation.

Fosters Research to Operations Peer Relationships

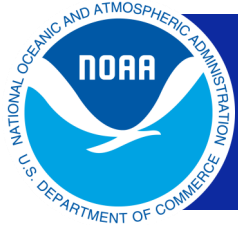
The CRT organizes and hosts "Shark Tank" events which feature a panel of subject matter experts, brought together in an environment designed to nurture ideas, offer feedback and guidance on how to further research ideas, which are proposed by participants in a 3 minute pitch.



Improves Understanding of Space Weather

Through the development of four YouTube videos, Science-on-a-Sphere visualizations, handouts and an online resources Toolkit, the CRT has facilitated opportunities to connect expertise to increase knowledge of NOAA's broad mission and regional capabilities.

Regional Collaboration Vision: a unified and regionally integrated NOAA



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CENTRAL REGION TEAM MEMBERS

Team members represent the diversity of programs within the region, provide expertise and connections to address regional challenges, exchange national and regional insights that inform action, and improve the understanding of and respect for NOAA's broad mission and regional capabilities. Team members include:

NOAA Public Affairs

Keli Pirtle, Public Affairs Officer,
National Weather Center

OAR

Lans Rothfusz, Deputy Director,
National Severe Storms Lab
Lisa Darby, Meteorologist,
Earth Systems Research Lab

Affiliated / Partner Member

Natalie Umphlett, Interim Director, High Plains
Regional Climate Center

Regional Team Coordinator

Bethany Perry

NWS

Wendy Pearson, NWS Central Region Deputy Chief
for Hydrological Services
Dave Hintz, Meteorologist-in-Charge, Rapid City, SD
Weather Forecast Office
Steve Buan, Service Coordination Hydrologist, North
Central River Forecast Center
Dianne Suess, Executive Officer, Space Weather
Prediction Center

NESDIS

Doug Kluck, Regional Climate Services Director

Regional Team Lead

John Ogren, Acting NWS Chief Learning Officer



SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS:

Central Region Team members represent many programs and have expertise in many disciplines, such as: hydrology, meteorology, climatology, space weather, public outreach and communications, and research to operations experience.

The Team meets annually in another NOAA Region to foster collaborative opportunities between regions. This allows them to give undivided attention to developing and planning team activities and initiatives as well opening opportunities to learn and foster relationships with NOAA colleagues in other regions. In 2016 the Team met in Charleston, SC. Pictured from left to right: Chris Strager (guest), John Ogren, Dave Hintz, Wendy Pearson, Pedro Restrepo (retired), Dianne Suess, Bethany Perry, Doug Kluck, Keli Pirtle, Steve Buan, Donna Franklin (Advisory Group Member), Lans Rothfusz, Lisa Darby

*For more information, visit
www.noaa.regions.gov/central*